

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between lines 4 and 5, please insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Numerous types of spring compressor are known for this purpose. All of them comprise an actuator (mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, or pneumatic) comprising at least two elements that are telescopically movable relative to each other, with each element having a grip member associated therewith for co-operating with the spring (a portion of a turn of the spring for each member) in order to compress it. Those various spring compressors differ from one another firstly by the means for attaching the grip members to the actuator elements, and secondly by the shapes of the grip members depending on whether they have continuous tracks for co-operating with the spring (referred to as cups) or whether they comprise two arms fixed and/or hinged to the attachment portion and having some gutter-shaped ends for receiving the turn of the spring that is to be manipulated (referred to as claws as in document EP-A-1 046 469).--

Page 2, between lines 16 and 17, please insert the following heading:

--OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 4, between lines 11 and 12, please insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 5, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--